

Written by Elizabeth Sollis

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## **National Girls Institute Hosting Listening Sessions to Identify Needs of At-Risk and Delinquent Young Girls**

### ***Local Experts Selected to Assist with Facilitation and Recruitment***

WASHINGTON, D.C.— The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and the Center for Girls and Young Women at the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD) have convened a nationwide series of listening sessions to identify priorities for the recently established National Girls Institute (NGI). The listening sessions are being held throughout the country to enhance what is understood about the needs of each region.

“We are hosting listening sessions to hear directly about the needs of young girls, their families, and the professionals who serve them every day,” said Jeff Slowikowski, Acting Administrator at OJJDP. “This is a necessary first step for the National Girls Institute as we establish an effective and responsive resource for all involved.”

Experts within the communities will facilitate many of the listening sessions. In Utah, experts met with over 100 young girls, their families, and professionals.

The National Girls Institute is a research-based training and resource clearinghouse working to improve national, state, and local responses to girls in the juvenile justice system and to provide training and technical assistance to professionals who work with at-risk and system-involved girls and their families.

“The listening sessions will reach girls and service providers from diverse communities and will allow us to set priorities for the National Girls Institute that will truly serve them all well,” said Lawanda Ravoira, Director of the Center for Girls and Young Women. “It’s important that we

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maximize the Institute's usefulness to the field and to the girls we all serve." NCCD research specialists will analyze the information from the listening sessions and prepare a written report.

OJJDP entered into a cooperative agreement with NCCD to create the National Girls Institute. NCCD will receive \$1.5 million from OJJDP over 3 years to establish NGI. The Institute's mission is to develop and provide resources to stakeholders who serve at-risk and delinquent girls. The listening sessions are already underway around the country and are scheduled for completion by the end of July.